Commission has made an assessment of the receipts and expenditures of all States, including Orissa, for its award period 2000—05 by adopting appropriate norms and projections. The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended a total estimated transfer of Rs. 20754.50 crore to the State of Orissa as against Rs. 9706.55 crore by the Tenth Finance Commission, showing an increase of 114 per cent.

(b) A Joint mission from World Bank and UK Department for International Development (DFID) visited Orissa in connection with discussion of a possible operation in support of the Government of Orissa's economic reform programme. The mission noted the erosion of finances of the Government of Orissa, and the need for the State to embark upon a Medium Term Fiscal Reforms programme. The Eleventh Finance Commission, has also commented upon the deterioration in the finances of the State Governments, including Orissa, and have made recommendations for a debt relief scheme, and a monitorable fiscal reforms facility. The Government of India, has since accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

Lower excise collections

613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the excise collections were hampered recently either by inadequate tax collection effort or by misuse of the expanded MODVAT facility since 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how this has affected the finances of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir. The share of cash revenue in gross revenue (total of cash revenue and MODVAT) collected through Central Excise is almost stable since 1995-96. In percentage terms, the share of cash revenue in gross revenue of Central Excise is 57.52% in 1995-96, 56.76% in 1996-97, 57.63% in 1997-98, 59.65% in 1998-99 and 58.45% in

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1991-2000 respectively. However, the collection in excise up to January, 2001 is higher by 12% over the last year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Filing of Income Tax Returns

614. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the cities of Karnataka covered under six economic criteria for filing of Income Tax returns in Form 2C who have filed returns for the assessment year 1999-2000;

(b) whether possessing a telephone is one of the criteria for filing the Income Tax returns in Form 2C; and

(c) whether Government would delete possessing telephone from the above rule since telephone is a necessity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The number of persons who have filed returns in Form 2C for the assessment year 1999-2000 in the Karnataka and Goa region is 51,044.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Suggestions have been received for modifications in the criterion relating to subscription to a telephone. These suggestions are being examined in the current budgetary exercise, and the decision of the Government thereon will be reflected in the Budget proposals.

Circulating of one Thousand Rupee Notes

†615. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items which appeared in the "Dainik Jagaran" of 26th January, 2001 under the caption "Hazaar ka note chalan mein na aane ka mukhya karan kalabaazari"; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.